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Richard J. Coughlin

Expert Calls Lodge Hard-Headed Envoy

Henry Cabot Lodge was characterized as "intelligent and hard-headed" by an expert on Southeast Asia yesterday.

Prof. Richard J. Coughlin of the University of Virginia, who addressed a Western Reserve University audience last night, said in an interview that the late President Kennedy had selected Lodge as ambassador to South Viet Nam because he was strong enough to handle the situation.

"AND IT'S a very difficult situation," Coughlin said. "The former American ambassador was a complete failure and a tool of the Central Intelligence Agency, which most Americans do not realize is a government within a government."

Lodge has cut down its power."

Coughlin is of the opinion the present war in South Viet Nam is "the last chance the people have to be free and independent and they have a right to be free and independent."

But if General Nguyen Khanh cannot stop the guerrilla war, the nation's future may be as a vassal of Peking, he said. "Because of this, the war in Viet Nam is our war."

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